

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-36 are in the case. Claims 34 and 35 are new. Claims 18-34 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-17 stand rejected.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 6 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 4, 7-14, and 16-17 have been amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The examiner has rejected claims 11-13 describing them as vague and indefinite because of a reference to an industry standard. The applicant has amended claims 11, 12, and 13. In their present form they are believed to overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9, 11,14, and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ross et al. US 6,570,770. Applicant respectfully traverses. Claims 1 and 6 have been cancelled, and claims 2-5, 7, 9, 11,14, and 16-17 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from new base claim 10 as amended. As discussed below, claim 10 is in condition for allowance. As claims 2-5,7, 9, 11,14, and 16-17 now include all the limitations of allowable claim 10 they are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross et al. in view of Liu US 6,185,110. Applicant respectfully traverses. Claims 8 includes all the limitations of allowable claim 10, as discussed below. Therefore, claim 8 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested.

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The examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross et al. in view of Ivey et al. US 6,560,106. In response, applicant has amended claim 10. It is now an independent claim.

The Examiner states:

"Regarding claim 10, Ross et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for at least one interface being positioned on the second side.

"Ivey et al. disclose an interface enhancing apparatus (Figs. 5-6 and 8) having first and second components attached to a front panel (108) of an electronic device (100), wherein the second component (116) has a first side and an opposite side and wherein the opposite side has at least one interface mounted thereon (Fig. 8).

"It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add an interface on the opposite side of Ross et al., as suggested by Ivey et al. in order to provide connection between the component and the printed circuit board in the chassis." (Bold and underlining added.)

To establish obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the Examiner must view the invention as a whole. Further, the Examiner is to perform the obviousness analysis in accordance with the standard set forth by the Supreme Court in *Graham v. John Deere Co.* That standard requires that the Examiner (1) determine the scope and content of the prior art; (2) ascertain the differences between the prior art and the claims in issue; (3) resolve the level of ordinary skill in the art; and (4) evaluate evidence of secondary considerations. 383 U.S. 1, 17-18 (1966); see also MPEP 2141. Secondary considerations include whether the invention met with commercial success, whether the invention answered a long felt need, and whether others attempting the invention have failed. *Graham*, 383 U.S. at 17-18. Further, in applying the *Graham* framework, the Examiner must consider the invention as a whole, without the benefit of hindsight. MPEP 2141. Further, In determining the differences between the prior art and the claims, the question under 35 U.S.C. 103 is not whether the differences themselves would have been obvious, but whether the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious. *Stratoflex, Inc. v. Aeroquip Corp.*, 713 F.2d 1530, 218 USPQ 871 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

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Claim 10 as currently amended reads as follow:

10. (Currently amended) An interface enhancing apparatus, comprising:
- a first component configured to be mechanically mated, removably and orthogonally, with an interface panel of a modular platform board, the interface panel having first one or more interfaces positioned thereon for interfacing first one or more devices to the modular platform board;
 - a second component orthogonally joined with the first component, enabling the second component to be substantially parallel with and spaced apart from the interface panel when the first component is removably and orthogonally mated with the interface panel, the second component having second one or more interfaces configured for interfacing second one or more devices with the modular platform board;
 - the second component having a first face facing away from the interface panel and an opposite second face facing the interface panel;
 - the second one or more interfaces are positioned on the second face of the second component; and
 - the second component defines a space relative to the interface panel of the modular platform board that is sufficient to protectively accommodate cabling for interfacing the first and second devices to the first and second one or more interfaces respectively, and the space being accessible from either side of the second component. (Underlining added)

Thus, when Claim 10 is viewed as a whole, as required by law, it is directed towards a novel apparatus that includes a very efficient and effective way of adding more interfaces to the modular platform board. The apparatus is "removably" mated to the modular platform board, allowing the apparatus to be easily removed temporarily to repair or replace the modular platform board. Or the apparatus can be removably mated (with the device attached to the added interfaces) to another modular platform board. There is no such teaching, or functionality possible with the Ross et al. handle which must stay attached to the electrical assembly in order to remove the electrical assembly. The modular platform box 116 of Ivey et al. is slidable relative to the electrical housing 100. But if it is removed the functionality is disrupted as, the "ribbon cable 800 connects door 108 with a control panel circuit board 802. The control panel

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circuit board 802 contains circuitry that assists in the operation of systems within the electrical housing 100." (Column 5, lines 57-60)

Continuing when Claim 10 is viewed as a whole it further requires the first and second one or more interfaces being "protectively" disposed at an interior space. This is made possible by having the first component attached to the board orthogonally, and having the second component attached to the first component orthogonally, to allow the second component to be substantially parallel to the interface panel of the board. The first component is dimensioned to allow the second component to define a space relative to the interface panel to "accommodate cabling" under the face to face arrangement. Further, the space is efficiently "accessible from either side of the second component". By contrast Ivey et al. hand, teach a completely inaccessible modular platform box 116. Positioning cabling behind the Ross et al. handle would be nonsensical as it would interfere with being "grasped by a user's hand for pulling of electronics assemblies out of trays." (Column 4, lines 37-38).

Furthermore, applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner has failed to provide a reference disclosing the deficiencies of the two references discussed. Therefore, the rejection under Section 103(a) appears to be based on facts within the personal knowledge of the examiner. Thus, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(d)(2), applicant respectfully requests that the examiner provide an affidavit supporting the unsupported assertions made in the Office Action. Reconsideration of the examiner's rejection and allowance of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

The examiner has rejected claims 12-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross et al. in view of Haris et al. US 2003/0235042. Applicant respectfully traverses. Claims 12-13 and 15 includes all the limitations of allowable claim 10, as discussed. Therefore, claims 12-13 and 15 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested.

New Claims

The applicant has added new claims 35 and 36 for consideration. Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Applicant submits claims 2-5, 7-17, and 35-36 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

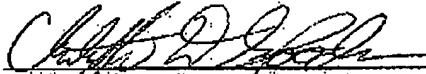
If there are any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 503-796-2496. Also, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,

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